

After being an amateur radio operator for seven years and a professional military communicator for 20 years before that, I took a close look at "access BPL".

I refuse to believe that anyone with a modicum of intelligence could ignore the facts: 1) access BPL poses a grave threat of interference to the amateur radio bands (MF, HF and low-VHF) and 2) access BPL cannot fulfill the functions of the service it would annihilate (amateur radio).

Please consider carefully whether communities would rather have internet distribution via power lines or a trained cadre of operators who can provide emergency communications when power lines, cell phone towers, municipal radio towers, etc., are disabled due to hurricane, tornado, flood, or other major disasters, such as the services we provide(d) during such events as the major wild fires that are now effecting our western states, or the destruction of the WTC towers on 9/11. I am aware that most people don't consider these events important in their individual lives, but allow me to give you one more short example.

Jarrell, TX, had an F-5 tornado strike their town a few short years ago. It demolished the towers holding the police, fire, and EMS radio repeaters/antennas as well as cell phone towers - there was NO COMMUNICATIONS IN JARRELL. The only communications those services had for five hours (FIVE HOURS - during which many people might have died if amateur radio operators hadn't jumped in and worked their tails off) was amateur radio volunteers - people who buy their own equipment and train extensively for just this type of situation and put themselves and their equipment in harm's way to provide just this service.

I'm asking you to think for the people and make the right choice.

Thank you.

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